

## International

### WHO Declares Kenya Free of Sleeping Sickness

The World Health Organisation (WHO) certified Kenya as having eliminated human African trypanosomiasis, also known as sleeping sickness, as a public health challenge, making it the 10th country to reach this critical milestone.

Human African trypanosomiasis is the second neglected tropical disease to be eliminated in Kenya, following the country's certification as Guinea worm disease-free in 2018. The disease is caused by protozoan parasites transmitted by infected tsetse flies, according to the WHO.

### WMO Warns Extreme Heat Is Affecting Millions Worldwide

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has warned that extreme heat is impacting millions of people around the world.

As per WMO data, many regions across the world are increasingly experiencing frequent global heatwaves and record-breaking temperatures. The average sea surface temperature was also the third-highest on record.

The WMO also noted that in the past week, maximum temperatures exceeded 42 degrees Celsius in parts of West Asia, southern Central Asia, most of North Africa, southern Pakistan, and the southwestern United States.

### Brazilian President Lula da Silva Signs Environmental Bill

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has signed an environmental bill into law but vetoed 63 of its 398 provisions, preserving key environmental protections. Environment Minister Marina Silva said the revised law keeps Brazil's zero deforestation and CO2 reduction goals on track.

## Important Days

### World Biofuel Day: 10<sup>th</sup> August

World Biofuel Day is observed every year on 10 August to raise awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional energy sources. The day commemorates Rudolf Diesel, who ran his diesel engine on peanut oil in 1893, demonstrating the potential of biofuels.

It highlights the role of biofuels in reducing dependence on fossil fuels, cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and promoting sustainable energy solutions.

### World Lion Day: 10<sup>th</sup> August

World Lion Day is observed on 10 August to raise awareness about the conservation and protection of lions, one of the most iconic big cats in the world.

The day highlights the threats faced by lions, including habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict, and poaching.

## National

### EC Delists 334 Registered Unrecognised Political Parties

The Election Commission has delisted 334 registered unrecognised political parties (RUPPs), which have failed to fulfil the essential condition of contesting even a single election for six years since 2019.

The offices of these parties could also not be physically located anywhere.

National political parties, State political parties, and registered unrecognised political parties in the country are registered with the poll body under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act.

### India's Defence Exports Reach ₹23,000 Crore, Set to Double in the Next 2-3 Years

India's defence exports touched 23,000 crore rupees last year and are expected to double within the next two to three years,

said Dr. Sameer Kamat, Secretary of the Department of Defence Research and Development and Chairman of the Governing Council of the Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT). Dr. Kamat stated that Indian defence equipment has high demand in Middle Eastern, African, and South Asian countries.

### **Government Releases Guidelines for 23rd National Awards for e-Governance 2026**

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances has issued the scheme guidelines for the 23rd National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2026.

The National Awards for e-governance are presented annually to honor and encourage excellence in implementing e-governance initiatives.

The awards seek to recognize significant achievements, foster the sharing of effective practices, and promote innovations in digital governance.

### **Business and Economy**

#### **ICICI Bank Hikes Minimum Balance for New Savings Accounts to ₹50,000**

ICICI Bank has increased the minimum monthly average balance (MAB) for new savings accounts opened on or after August 1, 2025, from ₹10,000 to ₹50,000—five times higher than before. The hike does not apply to salary accounts, PM Jan Dhan accounts, or basic savings bank deposit accounts, which remain zero-balance.

MAB is the minimum amount customers must maintain; failing which, a penalty is levied.

#### **Government Extends PM E-DRIVE Plan by Two Years till March 2028**

The Government of India has extended the PM E-Drive scheme by two years, pushing its completion timeline to March 2028.

The initiative aims to promote electric mobility, enhance EV infrastructure, and accelerate the adoption of clean transportation across the country.

The extension is expected to provide additional time for implementing charging networks, supporting EV manufacturing, and encouraging consumer adoption through incentives.

### **Sports**

#### **Indian Women's Team Storms Into Semis at Asia Rugby U-20 Championship**

The Indian U20 Women's team stormed into the semifinals of the Asia Rugby Under-20 Championship Sevens, being played at Rajgir in Bihar, with superb performances converted into victories. After defeating Kazakhstan in their first match, the Indian girls thrashed the UAE team in the second clash.

Captain Bhumika Shukla led from the front with two tries, vice-captain Tanushree Bhosale added one, and Muskan Piploda and Anshu completed the scoring against the Emirates team.

#### **Indian Surfers Ramesh Budihal, Kishore Kumar Make History by Reaching Asian Championships Semifinals**

Indian surfers Ramesh Budihal and Kishore Kumar became the first to reach the semifinals of the Asian Surfing Championships in the Open Men's category in Mahabalipuram.

Last year, the young Indian talent competed in the Under-18 category of the 2024 edition and became the first from the country to reach the semifinals in that age group.